

Screaming Trees a decent band

BY Glen Boswall

Simplicity and strength. The Screaming Trees seem to take these concepts as the center point of their visual image and sound.

That was, at least, the message I seemed to be getting from guitarist Bruce Nelson as we screamed out a short interview amidst the crowd and P.A. noises between sets.

"Most groups will have 20 or 30 microphones on stage," he said, "we have three. Everything else goes directly into the soundboard."

Indeed, with both the bass and guitar plugged into Tom Sholz Rockmans (small amplifiers about the size of a Sony Walkman) and a Simmons drum set up, the stage had a noticeably uncluttered look.

The Screaming Trees sang, joked, and played through three hours of U2, Billy Idol, The Talking Heads, Phil Collins, The Cars, The Thompson Twins, and others. Their

performance was nothing short of astonishing considering that they were formed only six short weeks ago when ex-Titan members Dave Roberts (bass, vocals, and keyboards) and Bruce Nelson (guitars, backing vocals, and keyboards) linked up with ex-Tequila drummer Steve Coady.

The band is currently on the Maritime club and university circuit but hopes to go to the studio in the near future to record several originals. Asked if the group would be looking at touring Quebec or Ontario in the future, Bruce Nelson replied that these circuits were not all that lucrative and that the band will likely remain Halifax-based until the fate of their studio recordings becomes apparent.

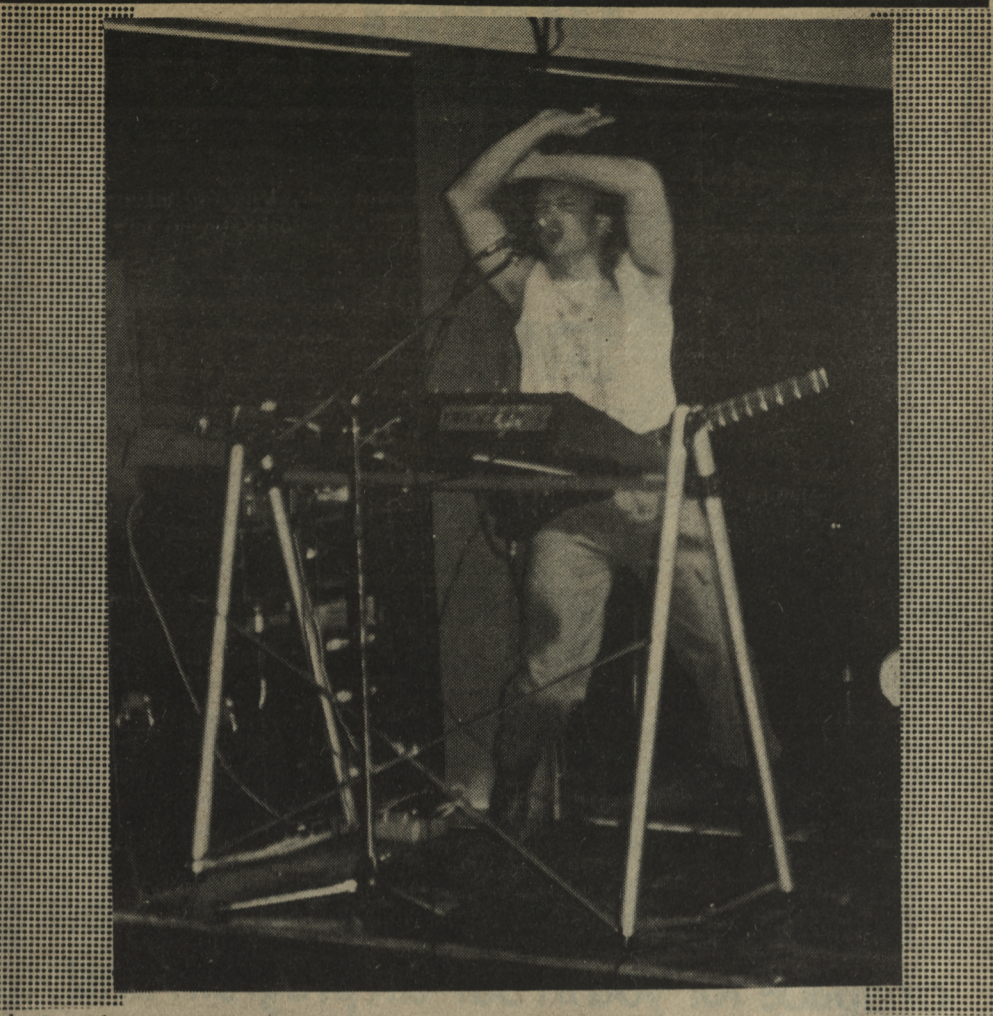
I don't know what to hope for. If they succeed with their originals, I fear we will lose one of the finest bands the Maritimes can lay claim to.

The gear used was of fairly

straight-ahead quality: two keyboards (a Prophet 5 and a JX3P), a Korg bass, a B.C. Rich Mockingbird guitar (domestic make, very impressive), Simmons electronic drums, an E-mu Systems Drumulator and a Yamaha and a Seck mix P.A. system.

A slight over-reliance on the Prophet 5 keyboards and the use of the Drumulator (programmable drumming) caused me some unease, but the band compensated well. Perhaps they may benefit from an extra group member to fill in gaps currently filled by the electronics. The sight of the electronic drums also caused me some concern, but these fears soon melted under the skilled drumming of Steve Coady.

Skilled is the adjective that describes each and every band member. Steve Coady provides a solid beat with tasty fills, Bruce Nelson knows his guitar and exactly how to push and cajole it for maximum effect, and last



but not least, Dave Roberts sings, screams, and croons on a level that matches the best. Not only are they respectively talented but they are tight as a unit.

As with most things, the best was saved for the last. The Screaming Trees closed out the show with an astounding version of "Purple Rain".

One last thing. To the impromptu visitors who spent the last few numbers on stage with the band . . . "Get off, people didn't pay to see you."

Life Styles, continued

Beverly Hills P.D. The cop Billy? The guy is awesome — too good to be true, by far. He must be seen to be believed. . .

Do go see this fabulous flick, won't you? It'll keep you laughing start to finish.

Wow. I feel good about

this week's column. Even though I drive the space shuttle Columbie (by the way, the Enterprise is in space drydock forever — sob.), I'm still not a full-fledged cadet yet, so I won't say anything about how I feel I've made contact with the powers that be. Ask Fly-

ing Phil about that — he's got some pretty amusing ideas on how week after week I come up with this stuff. I think it'd make a great novel.

I have bled the rock that is my foolishness dry. See you next week.

Take Care,

SEX IS BEAUTIFUL. BUT IT SHOULDN'T INCLUDE UNPLEASANT SURPRISES.

VD is a difficult subject to discuss.

Especially between lovers.

Unfortunately, though, it isn't at all difficult to catch. Sometimes from partners who don't even suspect they have it.

No magic pill can protect you.

But the commonsense condom can.

The condom has long been recognized both as a reliable contraceptive and as the only really effective way to minimize the risk of spreading venereal infection.

Because when you use a condom (however thin and sensitive) both of you are protected.

Condoms aren't hard to find or difficult to buy. In fact, they're available without prescription at drug stores everywhere. So think it over.

And keep in mind that VD is the surest way in the world to bring a beautiful relationship to an ugly end.

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